



SYDNEY AQUARIUM CONSERVATION FUND INC

REPORT TO MEMBERS November 2010

Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund
c/o Sydney Aquarium, Aquarium Pier, Darling Harbour, 2000
P +612 8251 7875 F +612 9262 2583
E: conservation@sacf.org.au
W: www.sacf.org.au
ABN 138 938 72867



Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund Mission Statement

"Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund is a not for profit organisation that will fund and support research, education and conservation initiatives to increase our understanding of Australia's aquatic flora, fauna and ecology with a focus on Sydney Harbour. Through increased knowledge and public awareness gained from this research, protection and restoration of species and habitats will be facilitated while ensuring the sustainable use of our harbour".

Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund Inc ("SACF") is an independent not-for-profit association that is:

Committed to "thinking globally and acting locally" by raising general public awareness of the need for worldwide ecological sustainability while focusing on conservation and research into the aquatic organisms and environments of Australia with a strong focus on Sydney Harbour and its tributaries;

Intent on showing the general public that Sydney Harbour and its associated bioregions is a viable natural environment that requires our help through research, education and public awareness to help sustain its fragile ecosystems;

Supportive of other associations and institutions that are acting positively towards the environment and will strive to unite and work collaboratively with those organisations;

Aware of Sydney Harbour as potentially the most recognisable harbour in the world, one of the most publicly used water bodies in the world, and one of Sydney's greatest assets but is requiring our help to understand and protect its aquatic organisms and environments into the future.

SACF raises money through fundraising activities, grants and sponsorship arrangements to fund and support scientific and educational projects that have **applied conservation outcomes** aimed at conserving, protecting, restoring or fostering sustainable use of Australian aquatic species, habitats and resources.

Research findings and educational information gathered from these projects and activities are disseminated to the public through our close association with the Sydney Aquarium and Oceanworld Manly. This facilitates an understanding of the need for the conservation of Australian aquatic organisms and environments as well as the sustainable use of our unique harbour. Information is also disseminated via events held at Sydney Aquarium and Oceanworld, our website www.sacf.org.au, a quarterly newsletter, and through networks of other organisations with which SACF has a working relationship.

SACF funds key scientific research and aquatic conservation education projects and works with State and Federal Governments, universities, local communities and other environmental NGOs including the National Parks Association of NSW, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Landcare/Coastcare, WWF and Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC).

Organisation

SACF is a not for profit aquatic conservation organisation that was listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO) from 14 October 2008. This enables SACF to receive Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which will allow tax deduction receipts to be issued for donations to the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund Public Fund over \$2.

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SACF Management Committee

- President – Claudette Rechterik
- Vice President – Mark Craig
- Secretary – Maija Honkavaara
- Public Officer - Brian Owles
- Treasurer - Brian Owles
- 3 ordinary members : Sam Gilchrist (Vet), Dave van Cuylenburg (Curatorial), 1 x vacant position

Manages the affairs of SACF, meets quarterly for business and financial reporting.

SACF Public Fund Committee

- Claudette Rechterik
- Brian Owles
- Nan Jiang
- Maija Honkavaara

Public Fund Committee manages the 'Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund Public Fund'

Sydney Attractions Group Research and Conservation Committee (SAG RCC)

A committee established in October 2009 to assess the research funding applications and manage the relationship with Sydney Attractions Group. Members include:

- Mark Craig
- Sam Gilchrist
- Claudette Rechterik
- Maija Honkavaara

Funding of SACF operations and projects

SACF's predominant sponsor is Sydney Attractions Group and is valued at \$100,000 annually.

SACF has the following additional sources of revenue:

- Spinners and donation boxes in Sydney Aquarium and Oceanworld Manly.
- Adopt an Animal programme - \$50 Tax Deductible donations to the Public Fund
- SACF Products at SAQ gift shop and SACF website - Sale of artworks, postcards, calendar
- Fundraising events
- Public donations
- SACF Membership - \$10 annually

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Scientific research and projects funded by SACF in 09/10:

Researcher/project title	Funding amount
Libby Eyre – SAQ <i>Correlating Humpback Whale Underwater Behaviour with Acoustics</i>	1000
Andrew Barnes – SAQ <i>Medical check ups for wild dugongs</i>	3000
Anna Scott – National Marine Science Centre <i>Evaluating the vulnerability of an iconic marine species to climate change</i>	4295
Barry Bruce – CSIRO <i>Great White shark tagging project</i>	12256
Kate Lee – Macquarie University <i>Assessing the efficacy of small marine protected areas for the conservation of wobbegong sharks</i>	4620
Dave Harasti – University of Newcastle <i>Population genetics of a geographically restricted seahorse species (<i>Hippocampus whitei</i>).</i>	6500
Total as at 30 Oct 2010	31,673

SACF has also funded an Australian Marine Science Association (AMSA) student award valued at \$2,500 for 2 years, for research excellence in marine science.

SACF's relationship with Sydney Aquarium has provided no shortage of opportunities to create mutually beneficial relationships and collaborations with a range of other organisations in Australia, including NSW Department of Industry and Investment, Sydney Institute of Marine Science, National Parks Association, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Marine Discovery Centre Bondi. Through these relationships and as a result of the high profile of Sydney Aquarium, SACF will continue to benefit from collaboration with these organisations.

November 2010